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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/675,700	09/30/2003	Kenichi Tanoue	9281-4687	6306

7590 11/10/2004
Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60610

EXAMINER

GILMAN, ALEXANDER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 11/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/675,700

Applicant(s)

TANOUE, KENICHI

Examiner

Alexander D Gilman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 August 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 6-12 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Newly submitted claim 6-12 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: the claims 6-12 are related to the method for using the connector assembly. Only the structural features of of the connector assembly were claimed originally. It is not necessarily that a test pin would be inserted into an apparatus prior to the card connector being inserted into the apparatus.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 6-12 withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Matern.

The admitted prior art (Fig. 2 of the current specification) discloses a card connector assembly insertable into and extractable from an apparatus containina circuit, said assembly comprising:

a substrate (51) on which wiring traces (52) are formed and an electrical component (53) is mounted;
a plurality of contact lands (54) connected to the respective wiring traces and arranged along an edge of the substrate;

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connecting traces (55) that interconnect the respective contact lands and the respective wiring traces.

The admitted prior art does not disclose lands having a contact area for a test pin.

Matern (US 5,877,033) discloses (Abstract, lines 6-10 and Fig. 1-3) lands (36) having a contact area for a test pin.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the admitted prior art connector with lands having a contact area for a test pin, as taught by Matern, to detect nonsoldered component leads (Matern, col. 2, lines 59-61)

With regard to claims 2-3, the admitted prior art when modified by Matern, disclose (Matern) that some of the lands have a width greater than that of the corresponding connecting trace and disposed in vicinity of corresponding contact lands.

With regard to claim 4, the admitted prior art when modified by Matern, disclose (Matern) that the plurality of lands are arranged in a line (Fig 3).

With regard to claim 5, the admitted prior art when modified by Matern, disclose that a housing covers the substrate and the lands are not covered (Matern).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 08/16/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the secondary prior art (Matern) does not anticipate an arrangement in which contact lands connected to the lands for the test pin are arranged along an edge of the substrate such that the contact lands are connected to a circuit of an apparatus into which the card connector is inserted. Also, Applicant argues that nothing in Matern teaches that the circuit board of Matern may be inserted into an additional apparatus, thereby specifically permitting contact between the contact lands and a circuit in the apparatus. Also, Applicant argues that nothing in Matern teaches that contact lands being formed at the edge of a card connector.

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However, the primary reference (the admitted prior art) teaches most of the limitations, including contact lands being connected to the lands for the test pin are arranged along an edge of the substrate such that the contact lands are connected to a circuit of an apparatus into which the card connector is inserted. Also, APA teaches the circuit board being inserted into an additional apparatus and contact lands being formed at the edge of a card connector.

The only limitation which APA does not teach – the lands having a contact area for a test pin.

The secondary reference teaches this feature which is used for modification of the primary reference. The secondary reference was recited not for the incorporation of its embodiment into the primary reference but for the feature of the lands having a contact area for a test pin. The primary reference, when modified meets all of the claim 1 limitations.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander D Gilman whose telephone number is 571 272-2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571 272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

11/04/2004

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Gilman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**ALEXANDER GILMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**